



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON DC 20310


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Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April 2006


Sexual Assault is contrary to Army values, degrades mission readiness, and is a crime. It has no place in our Army. Over the past 18 months, the Army has implemented a comprehensive Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program to help address this problem. We have made much progress, but we still have a long way to go.

During 2005, the Army had over 1200 reported cases of sexual assault in which either the alleged perpetrator or the victim was a Soldier - more than a 70% increase from 2004. Such an increase in reported cases does not necessarily mean an increase in the actual number of sexual assaults, but it does highlight the magnitude of our problem. While there are strong indications that recent command emphasis, along with Army policy and training initiatives have created a willingness in more victims to report sexual assaults, many still do not come forward. One of the SAPR Program's goals is to create a climate that encourages victims to report without fear or shame so they can receive the help they need and so perpetrators receive the punishment they deserve.

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Leaders must fully implement and enforce the Army's SAPR Program contained in Chapter 8, AR 600-20 and create a climate that minimizes sexual assault and encourages reporting. Soldiers must continue to live by the Army Values and treat each other with dignity and respect. By doing so, we will take great strides toward eliminating sexual assault in our Army.


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